

MEETING MINUTES OF THE
PALMER CITIZEN CASINO IMPACT STUDY COMMITTEE
GENERAL GROUP MEETING 15
PALMER TOWN BUILDING, MEETING ROOM 1
SEPTEMBER 17, 2008 – 6:30 PM

Meeting opened at 6:35 pm by Gerald Chudy, Chair.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT Charlotte Burns, Gerald Chudy, Anthony Dimitropolis, CathyAnn Gehlhausen, Mickey Ghosh, Joseph Mastalerz, Stephen Sears, Carol Sugrue, Michael Swiatlowski, Paul Wisnewski

ABSENT Rocqueline Blazejowski, George Roy

OTHERS PRESENT Matthew Streeter (Town Manager), Ken Somerville

INTRODUCTION TO TOWN MANAGER

G. Chudy welcomes our guest, Matthew Streeter, the new Town Manager, to our committee and takes him through our process thus far. He explains that we have divided up into four sub-committees and are beginning the process of reviewing our preliminary reports. Members of each sub-committee give Mr. Streeter an overview of what we have accomplished and who we have interviewed.

Matthew Streeter asks what our next steps are for preparing a report for the Town Council and a discussion follows on the likelihood of casino actually coming to Palmer. The time frame for the legislature to pass a bill and the time frame to negotiate a host agreement is debated. It is stated that our duty as a committee is to present a report that clearly depicts the impacts, both positive and negative, of a casino in Palmer—it is not our duty to speculate on the likelihood of a congressional bill or other such areas that are out of our control.

The discussion continues regarding the amount of current open housing available in Palmer and the percentage of population increase that the town could expect. Ken Somerville states that the previous Town Manager projected the population to grow to 20,000 as a result of a casino. Mr. Streeter brings up the issue of Prop 2 1/2 and how many towns have seen a series of degradation of services over the years. Mr. Streeter urges the committee to give the Town Council as much pertinent information to help them make the right choices while working with a professional negotiator.

C. Burns asks what if we had two votes? One to see if the town is even in favor of the idea of a casino and then a second to see if voters would approve a contract between the town and a casino.

The tax rate for the land owned by Northeast Reality is questioned. Matthew Streeter states that the town offices would have that information.

The committee thanks Matthew Streeter for joining us and everyone agrees to keep the lines of communication open.

MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by A. Dimitropolis to accept the minutes for Meeting 12. P. Wisnewski seconded. The vote passed (10:0).

A motion is made by P. Wisnewski to postpone the review of the minutes for Meeting 13 until our next meeting. A. Dimitropolis seconds. The vote passed (10:0).

Minutes for Meetings 13, 14, and 15 will be reviewed at our October 1st meeting.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

P. Wisnewski proposes that we set a game plan for reviewing the sub-committee reports. A discussion follows regarding the final layout of the report. Could each section be written in a different style? How might each type of information be presented?

It is discussed that our report be physically handed to the Town Council for their review and then the committee should be available for their questions. Each sub-committee should have the opportunity to address questions in their subject area.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

The committee decides to move forward with the following meeting schedule:

- October 1 – Review of the Impacts on the Infrastructure report
- October 15 – Meeting with Mohegan Sun and Northeast Reality
- October 29 – Meeting with Sen. Brewer and Rep. Smola
- November 12 – Review of the Social and Cultural Impacts report
- November 19 – Review of the Impacts on Schools report
- December 3 – Review of the Impacts on Housing report
- December 17 – Discussion to wrap up full committee report

A motion is made by A. Dimitropolis to have M. Swiatlowski email Paul Brody of Mohegan Sun and ask that they come to our October 15th meeting prepared to address the following:

- Examples of towns/cities that include capital improvements or annual money that is provided by a casino for annual city budgets.
- Provide information requested from our meeting on August 6th.
- Any new information on how they would plan to handle public safety.
- Any new information on how they would address the water supply.
- Any new information on the size of the hotel that is planned.
- Any new information to the unanswered questions in the packet provided to us at the August 6th meeting.

M. Ghosh seconded. The vote passed (10:0).

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C. Sugrue to adjourn meeting at 8:25 pm.

J. Mastalerz seconded. The vote passed (10:0).

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL SWIATLOWSKI.

APPROVED – DRAFT